

After three days without showers soldiers go home

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP) — After three days of wool uniforms and no showers, thousands of men helping reenact the Battle of Gettysburg have forsaken the life of a Civil War soldier to the 20th century.

"I'd like to stay longer, but you have to make a living," said Griff King, a 35-year-old machine operator from Weston, W.Va., and a member of the 2nd Virginia Regiment.

More than 8,000 uniformed men concluded a commemoration of the battle's 125th anniversary Sunday by staging the final charge of the war's bloodiest confrontation.

Organizers billed the event as the largest Civil War reenactment ever.

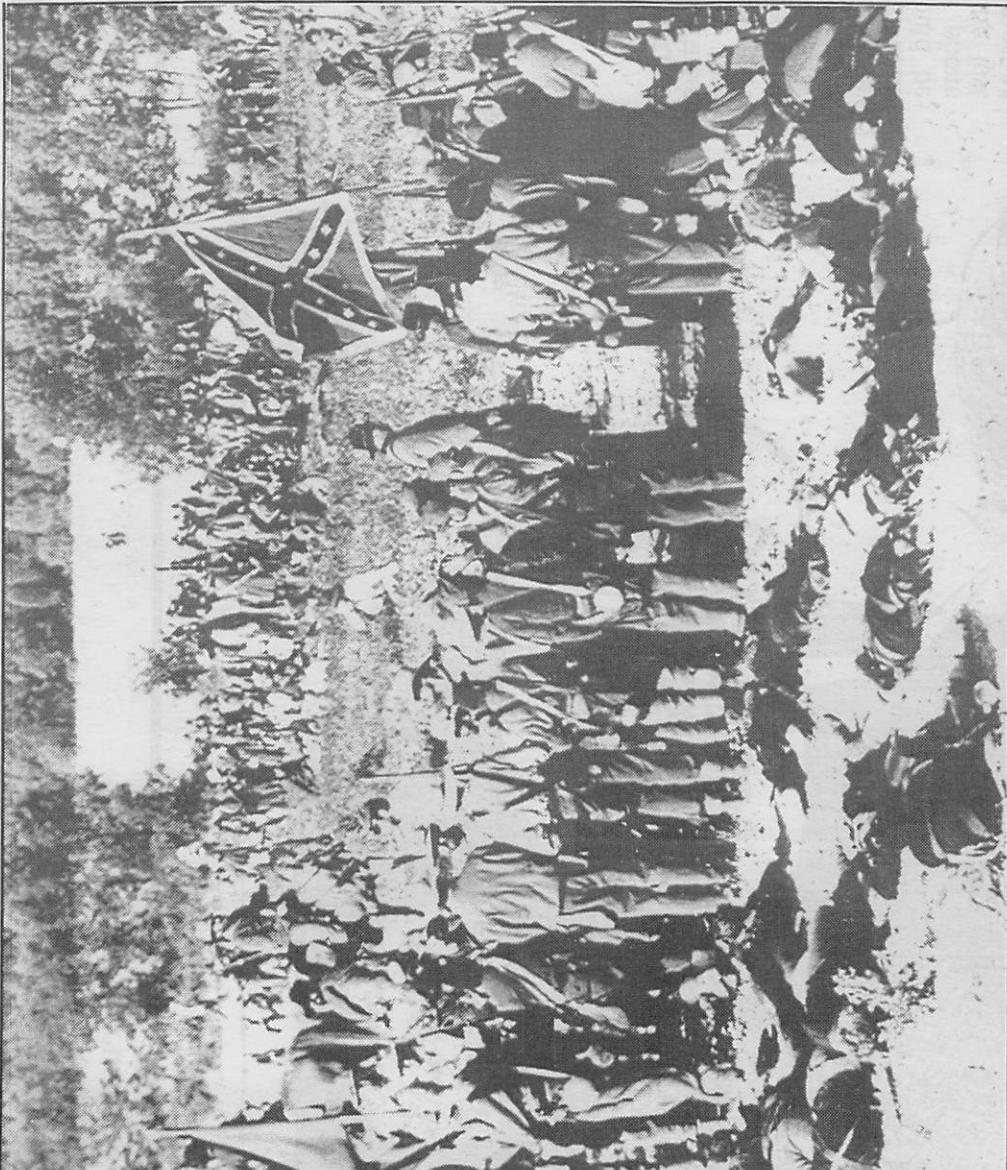
bler, a spokesman for Napoleonic Tactics Inc., which staged the battle on 700 acres of farmland five miles south of the actual battlefield.

After the last shots were fired, participants from North and South stood in silence as a bugler played taps and cannons fired one after another in a 21-gun salute to honor those who died in the actual battle.

Close to 50,000 Union and Confederate troops were killed or wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1-3, 1863, when the Army of the Potomac turned back the Army of Northern Virginia's attempt to invade the North.

A series of cannon blasts by both sides opened the fighting Sunday.

Some 140,000 people witnessed the reenactment over three days, said Paul Bae-



Participants dressed in Confederate uniforms prepare to back away from participants wearing Union uniforms in a re-enactment of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Opinions

Herald comment

Summertime means fun but remember caution essential

Summer is officially here and local children have been taking advantage of the hot days by spending more time outside. Summer may be the favorite time of year for youngsters who don't have to go to school. Daylight hours are longer and the weather is usually better.

But summer is also a time when parents, babysitters and everyone else needs to be extra vigilant about watching young children. Because children are more active this time of year, it is harder to keep track of their whereabouts.

season. Often parents or other adults are nearby but they let their attention wander for just a few moments. Especially in swift-moving water, a child can die very quickly.

Another concern is simply that sometimes children wander too far afield and are unable to find their way home. All children should be taught their addresses and phone numbers in case they become lost or separated from their homes or families.

Parents should also carefully consider some sort of identification card for their children. This

The Herald, its readers syndicated columnists and cartoonists discuss the issues

